this helps in achieving the national objectives of self-reliance and availability of medicines at reasonable prices?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, the DPEA was essentially set up to encourage domestic production of bulk drugs and towards a system of price retention. But in actual practict we had certain difficulties in operating DPEA and I have answered this on a number of occasions. There were many intractable administrative difficulties. There were delays on the part of the Government to revise prices and industries took up this matter. This matter has been agitating between the Government and the industry for a number of years. The industry felt that the unintended benefit which was supposed to have been earned has been off-set because of the delay caused by the Government in fixing a particular price of drug. As I said earlier, there are hundreds, hundreds and thousands of formulations for which the Government has to have a price control. That is why we have come out in the new measures to reduce the price control so that we could have more effective price control. As far as the accounts which have accrued under the DPEA prior to the announcement of the new measures, it is stated in these new measures that it will be taken care of and the money which has accrued will be realised from the companies.

Clearing of backlog in Trade Mark Registry

*66. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Mark Registry is overloaded and the trade mark registration takes anywhere from six months to five years; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken by Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The number of applications for registration of trade marks has increased substantially in recent years resulting in a heavy backlog of applications awaiting examination.

(b) The Government is making efforts to clear this backlog. To assess the increased workload an Internal Work study has been commissioned. Long term measures are also underway for computerising the record of the existing Trade Mark Registry to facilitate examination of the applications.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Trade Mark Registry is overloaded and the trade mark registration takes from six months to five years. I would like to know from the Minister as to what are those short term and long terms measures which the Government is proposing to take to meet the situation.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the Government is taking all steps to speed up the disposal of applications. Work study has been undertaken to strengthen the staff position. The staff position is still remaining as it was established. We are taking steps to strengthen the staff position.

Secondly, additional quota of work to examiners by payment of honorarium has been given. That is also being done. Thirdly, computerisation of registry and use of renewal of notice in computerised format has been introduced. Procedure has been simplified in the early stages of numbering of applications and indexing also. Rules are amended for payment of one time fee at the application stage itself instead of three stages namely application, advertisement and registration.

As far as the pendency of applications is concerned, after one year,

18275 applications are pending. Over three years and less than four years, 10 applications are pending.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the reply of the Minister, still the applications are pending. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is what he said. He said, 10 applications are pending which are over three years and less than four years. The others have been disposed of.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, in order to meet the situation, he has taken some of the measures. I would like to know by what time, this back-log will be cleared?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, recently we issued instructions that all these pending applications would be finalised within 11 months. We have issued instructions that for receipts of applications and for numbering of indices, they must take only one month's time. Calling for files from branches, one month's time is allowed, to comply with the requirements, three months time is given, for general publication, two months time is allowed, for filing of applications under the relevant section, four months time is allowed and for final hearing, one months's time is allowed. The total time is 11 months. Within 11 months, they must dispose of these applications. These are the guidelines issued to the departments.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, one of the way in which the workload in the Trade Mark Wing can be reduced is by removing foreign trade marks altogether. Sir, you are aware that many companies are coming in to make blades like Seven O'Clock, Maggie Noodles etc. and competing with firms which are already manufacturing the same products in India and thereby having an advantage of a brand name. Will the Ministry consider banning of foreign brand names altogether. This would lighten the work in the particular department and lessen your load and you would be able to give trade mark to everybody within six months.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, there is no proposal of prohibiting the brand names of the foreign firms. There is a lot of backlog. Now, as answered by me in the previous question, we are taking steps to clear all these backlogs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question No. 67.

Investment in Central Sector Projects in Punjab

*67. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment by Central Government in the Central Sector Projects in the State of Punjab is declining day by day;

(b) whether Central Government are aware that in the absence of large scale projects in Punjab, the employment opportunities for the youth have become inadequate; and

(c) what steps the Central Government propose to take in order to set up new large scale industries in the State of Punjab during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) The investment in Central Public Enterprises in Punjab has been increasing year after year.

(b) and (c) Investment decisions of Central Government are mainly based on techno-economic considerations. Under the 7th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 177.41 crores has been provided for the Central industrial and mineral sector and Rs. 109.88 crores in the power sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.